

MINUTES

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES

MAY 18, 2007

The State Advisory Council on Libraries convened in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, on Friday, May 18, 2007.

Present were:

Council

Arne Almquist
Linda Begley
Kimberly Hartz
Carolyn Ingram
Linda Kompanik
Carol Mitchell
Karen Porter
Lynda Short
Carolyn Sue Traum
Etolia White
Bill Wilson
Janice Wren

KDLA

Charlene Davis
Lori Harlan
Laura Negron
Wayne Onkst
Christie Robinson
Barbara Teague

KLA President

Laura Davison

Greg Rush, LRC
Charles Harman, Education Cabinet

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Kimberly Hartz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

No changes were made to the March 2, 2007 meeting minutes of the State Advisory Council on Libraries; minutes were approved as distributed.

KLA REPORT

Laura Davison, President of the Kentucky Library Association, reported to the Council that KLA participated in the American Library Association's 2007 National Library Legislative Day, held in Washington, DC, May 2, 2007. A total of nine representatives from Kentucky libraries visited with our Congressional Delegation to discuss important issues that effect libraries such as: LSTA funding, E-rate and telecommunication, privacy & surveillance, and access to government information. Ms. Davison stated that the participants felt the day was very successful.

KLA is also in the process of establishing a KLA Minority Scholarship and is hopeful that the Board will approve the funding and be able to present the first award at the KLA Annual Conference this fall. Christie Robinson has chaired this committee and has done a great job with moving this project forward.

Upcoming events for KLA include the Board Meeting on July 14, 2007 in Louisville, and the KLA/KSMA Annual Conference, September 19-22, 2007 at the Downtown Louisville Marriott.

LSTA FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Laura Negron, KDLA's Grants Administrator, reported to the Council that the 5 Year LSTA Evaluation Report, which reports the effectiveness of our programs and projects, has been submitted to Washington. Laura stated that currently they are working on drafting the 5 Year LSTA Plan, and will be sharing that soon with the Advisory Council for review and comments.

Laura Negron also advised the Council that our office is currently working on the sub-grant application process and are planning to post the LSTA sub-grant applications on our website within the next couple of weeks.

ARCHIVES REPORT

Barbara Teague, Archival Services Branch Manager, reported to the Council that KDLA made a presentation to the Capital Planning Advisory Board on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 about our critical need for the archives addition to our agency. Wayne addressed the Planning Advisory Board and was also accompanied by John Dobson, from the Administrative Office of the Courts, expressing our critical need for archival storage space and the vast amount of court documents that we are required to keep. The Planning Advisory Board had some questions about how feasible it would be to digitize some of those records. Commissioner Onkst discussed how expensive that process can be and will be submitting some figures that address that concern back to the Advisory Board. The Capital Planning Advisory Board will be making their rankings and recommendations sometime this fall. We are hopeful that funding will become available for our agency to move forward with the record management and archival responsibilities that we are mandated to uphold.

The Council also got the privilege of reviewing several original documents written and signed by Abraham Lincoln that were discovered in the state archives vault. The documents were among many given to the archives by the late Dr. Thomas D. Clark and were recognized as valuable Lincoln documents by KDLA archivists during recent processing of items held in the vault. The discovery of these documents made national news, and they are an example of the many important historical documents at the archives available to the public for viewing and research.

KDLA UPDATE REPORT

Commissioner Wayne Onkst advised the State Advisory Council on Libraries that recommendations for appointments to this Council have been submitted to the Governor's Office and those appointments are still pending at this time.

Legislation to allow the transfer of funds from the Board for Certification of Libraries to the Scholarship Fund was approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Legislation was also passed that allows county law libraries to cooperate with local public libraries and language was updated for the statute governing the State Advisory Council.

Commissioner Onkst reported that the process of awarding public library construction grants has been completed. Commissioner Onkst accepted the recommendation of the Appeals Board as the final ruling and no appeals were filed with the Circuit Court. The Governor added funding for one year to those libraries that lost funds as a result of the ruling. KDLA will be revising the construction regulations during the next year and are hopeful that in the future we will be able to increase the amount of construction funds that are awarded.

Commissioner Onkst explained to the Council that in order for local libraries to receive support from KDLA in the form of grants, state aid, or other forms of support they must first provide local support through a taxing district or through their Fiscal Court for their public library. There are several counties in Kentucky that do not have public libraries and KDLA is trying to work with those counties

to try to help them establish public libraries. Commissioner Onkst asked the Council how they felt about establishing a local agreement with some of these counties if they provide a minimum amount of funding to help themselves get started and to build from that amount. The level of support could be a minimum of \$3,500 or could be a certain amount per capita based on population. The Council did not want to set the standard amount for a local agreement too low, but did see the need to assist some of the counties who do not have a public library. A suggestion was made to look at the level of per capita support that is provided in surrounding counties, and that might help get an idea of what a local level of support might be for those counties who are trying to establish a public library.

KDLA is suffering a loss from the number of retirements that we have had this year and expect to have over the upcoming year. We are trying to fill as many of those positions that we possibly can, and are also looking at different methods of knowledge transfer to help capture some of the experience and business processes from exiting employees.

A team from the American Library Association recently visited KDLA to conduct a study, which is funded by the Gates Foundation, on access to broadband for public libraries. Kentucky was one of seven states to be visited. The team found that most all of our public libraries do have broadband access, but several libraries need additional bandwidth and training. This team will be making recommendations to the Gates Foundation on how the Foundation could assist in this process.

Commissioner Onkst advised the Council that KDLA will be embarking on a new strategic planning process over the next several months. KDLA will be using a consultant to assist us in redefining our mission, vision, goals and objectives. Our last Strategic Plan was developed over seven years ago and it is time for us to evaluate where we are and determine how we can best use our resources to better serve the Commonwealth.

Due to the current increase in postage, KDLA will be closely monitoring our shipping cost as this recent rate increase was not included in our current operating budget, and could make an impact on our shipping expenses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Charlene Davis who recently received the Outstanding Public Librarian Service Award at the KPLA Conference in April. Way to go Charlene, you do a great job!

Reminder – don't forget to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 22nd and again in the fall!

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council on Libraries will be held on Friday, September 7, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the KDLA Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT